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# **NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY ANTI-TERRORISM SUMMARY**



The North Dakota Open Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners.

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## **NORTH DAKOTA**

Nothing Significant to Report

## **REGIONAL**

**(Minnesota) 29 high schoolers infected with rare E. coli strain from deer.** A high school environmental science experience went awry when 29 students became infected with a lesser-known strain of pathogenic E. coli from the white-tailed deer they hunted, butchered, and barbecued for a class project, Food Safety News reported January 12. The incident, which happened more than a year ago, came to the media's attention for the first time January 11, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a study on the outbreak written by researchers at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). In November, 2010, two students from the environmental science class were admitted to a hospital with diarrhea. They shared the same doctor, who suspected their symptoms might indicate E. coli O157:H7 infections. When both students tested negative for O157, the doctor called the MDH, whose epidemiologist, discovered they were infected with E. coli O103:H2, another Shiga toxin-producing strain and one of the "Big Six" non-O157 strains soon to be regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in ground beef. It did not take long for the health department to trace back the infections to school barbeques where more than 200 students learned to field dress deer and help a professional butcher chop chunks of venison into kabob pieces. Students were also largely responsible for cooking their own meat, which was cut from one of seven deer, at least one of which carried E. coli O103, as well as O145:NM, a nonvirulent strain. Through interviews, the health department found 27 other students had diarrhea in the days following the barbeque. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/01/29-high-schoolers-infected-with-rare-e-coli-strain-from-deer/>

**(Minnesota; Wisconsin; Iowa) Advisory issued for Honeycrisp apple cider.** The Minnesota Department of Agriculture advised consumers to avoid drinking certain Pepin Heights Orchard Honeycrisp-brand apple cider because some of the cider distributed in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin could have elevated levels of patulin, Food Safety News reported January 9. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said long-term exposure to patulin is a potential concern. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture said routine lab tests confirmed the cider in question contained patulin at levels of 58 parts per billion (ppb), higher than the 50 ppb limit set by the FDA. The affected product — Pepin Heights Orchard brand Honeycrisp 100 percent fresh-pressed apple cider — was sold in 64-ounce (half gallon) plastic jugs. A similar advisory was issued in 2011 for Pepin Heights Orchard cider after routine testing revealed elevated levels of patulin. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/01/advisory-issued-for-certain-honeycrisp-apple-cider/>

**(Minnesota; Wisconsin) Wisconsin man admits mass mortgage fraud.** A man suspected in what authorities described as "the next wave" in mortgage fraud schemes surprised Hennepin County, Minnesota, prosecutors January 6 and pleaded guilty to a charge of racketeering, exposing himself to a potential prison term of up to 20 years. The man owned and operated

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Mortgage Planners Inc., a licensed mortgage originator in St. Paul. He admitted January 6 he and others submitted forged financial documents to lenders to qualify “straw buyers” for mortgage loans guaranteed by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). In addition to the forgeries, he also admitted he relied on a phony “phone tree” set up to provide employment verifications at nonexistent companies for some borrowers. Others facing charges in the scheme include the man’s wife and two other men. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development said the defendants brokered about \$23 million in loans, which were used to buy 136 properties in the Twin Cities area and outstate Minnesota. The suspect property transactions were complex deals that took advantage of provisions of Minnesota foreclosure law, prosecutors said. Source: <http://www.startribune.com/local/west/136832893.html>

**(Montana) EPA approves Montana’s phased-in water pollution plan; state says approach avoids huge costs.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved Montana’s plan to phase in strict limits on water pollution from municipal wastewater treatment plants, industry, and other sources, officials said January 9. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality Director (DEQ) said that under the state plan, most major polluters still would have to make changes to meet Montana’s flexible standard for two pollutants — nitrogen and phosphorus. The approved plan includes variances for cities and companies that would allow them to meet the new federal standards over 2 decades, meaning polluters could avoid huge costs they otherwise would have faced to upgrade pollution control equipment more immediately. The EPA raised concerns in 2011 about the state’s phased-in approach because it does not require individual polluters to prove economic harm before they are given more time to meet federal standards. The EPA backed down after the state in recent months presented studies that said the cost of meeting the standard would be significant. Although precise costs were not provided, some municipalities have said they would be forced to spend tens of millions of dollars to meet the federal rules using current technologies. The state’s plan to control nutrient pollution will go before the board of environmental review for adoption possibly sometime this coming summer or fall, a DEQ spokeswoman said. After that, the DEQ will issue a formal rule setting the nutrient standard and allowing the variances. Source: <http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/fc9fa844f37d4d139418c29dadadfb1/MT--Water-Pollution-Rules/>

**(Montana) Authorities turn to black box for answers in southwestern Montana bus crash that killed 2.** Federal and state highway safety officials January 9 turned to a passenger bus’ black box for answers about what caused it to crash on an icy highway in western Montana, killing two passengers. All 32 other people onboard were injured after the Rimrock Trailways bus hit a patch of ice, spun around, and rolled onto its side on Interstate 90 about a mile west of Clinton shortly after 7 a.m. January 8. Eight people were in serious or critical condition January 9. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigators and Montana Highway Patrol officials January 9 downloaded electronic information from the black box to determine the bus’ speed. The data will be used to help authorities determine whether the driver was negligent. The speed limit in the area is 75 mph, but Montana law requires motorists to travel at a speed that is safe for the conditions. A Highway Patrol spokesman said the initial estimated speed of the bus was 65 to 70 mph and that it slid 150 feet when it entered the median, but there were no

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skid marks on the highway to measure because of the ice. The crash closed an eight-mile stretch of I-90 in both directions, with injured passengers scattered in the eastbound lanes and tow trucks blocking the westbound lanes. Those suffering the worst injuries appeared to have been ejected when the bus slid on its side and bounced, breaking out the windows on the driver's side. Four people were pinned under the bus, including the two who died, said a Missoula County Sheriff's deputy. Authorities responded to seven other crashes that morning within 10 miles of the bus crash. One of those included a tractor-trailer that also turned on its side. The interstate was open again to traffic by evening. Source:

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/patrol-bus-that-crashed-on-icy-montana-interstate-was-going-too-fast-2-killed-32-injured/2012/01/09/gIQAxwNIP\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/patrol-bus-that-crashed-on-icy-montana-interstate-was-going-too-fast-2-killed-32-injured/2012/01/09/gIQAxwNIP_story.html)

### **NATIONAL**

**Missouri River management plan released.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it is trying to improve the way it manages the Missouri River's reservoirs after 2011's historic flooding, but the 2012 plan released January 6 does not include much additional flood-storage space, the Associated Press reported. The Corps has been criticized for last year's flood that caused \$630 million damage to flood-control structures and covered hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland along the 2,341-mile-long river for months. Officials say the levees, dams, and channels along the river remain vulnerable going into 2012 because many more repairs are needed, but they are working to complete critical repairs before spring. The Corps said there is only a 10 percent chance the amount of water flowing into the Missouri River from melting snow and rainfall this year will exceed the amount the plan can handle. Source:

<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/01/06/3356513/missouri-river-management-plan.html>

**Chicago man accused of mailing threatening letters containing false information about bombing targets across the U.S.** A Chicago man was indicted on federal charges for allegedly mailing threatening letters containing false information about bombing public and private properties around the country, federal law enforcement officials announced January 6. The defendant was charged with nine counts of falsely threatening use of explosives in an indictment. The man never posed any actual danger of carrying through with the alleged threats contained in dozens of identical letters mailed in March 2011, officials said in announcing the charges. The charges stem from an investigation of identically worded letters that were mailed from Chicago to dozens of recipients in about 16 states in March 2011. The letters, among other things, claimed that "Al-Qaeda" had planted 160 remotely-controlled nuclear bombs throughout the country in schools, churches, hospitals, financial institutions, and government buildings. Source: <http://www.fbi.gov/chicago/press-releases/2012/chicago-man-accused-of-mailing-threatening-letters-containing-false-information-about-bombing-targets-across-the-u.s>

### **INTERNATIONAL**

**France to tighten security around nuclear plants.** France will take new measures to tighten security around its 58 nuclear power plants, France's interior minister told daily Le Parisien

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January 6, after Greenpeace activists succeeded in entering two of them in December. In an attempt to highlight security weaknesses, activists got into the Nogent plant near Paris December 5 and climbed onto one of the domes that houses a reactor, while others entered the Cruas nuclear power site in southeastern France. The interior minister said cooperation would be improved between police watching the plants' exterior cordon and security agents inside, and new surveillance equipment including cameras would be installed at any nuclear site where it was lacking. Source:

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL6E8C609N20120106>

### **BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY**

**FBI warns of malware phishing scam.** The FBI issued a warning the week of January 2, on a new Internet blight called "Gameover," which, once ensconced on a PC, can steal usernames and passwords and defeat common methods of user authentication employed by financial institutions. The FBI said it has seen an increase in the use of Gameover, which is an e-mail phishing scheme that invokes the names of prominent government financial institutions — the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA), the Federal Reserve Bank, or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). The FBI said Gameover is a newer variant of the Zeus malware, which was created several years ago and specifically targeted banking information. This is how the FBI described the scam: "Typically, you receive an unsolicited e-mail from NACHA, the Federal Reserve, or the FDIC telling you that there's a problem with your bank account or a recent ACH transaction. The sender has included a link in the e-mail for you that will supposedly help you resolve whatever the issue is. Unfortunately, the link goes to a phony website, and once you're there, you inadvertently download the Gameover malware, which promptly infects your computer and steals your banking information. After the perpetrators access your account, they conduct what's called a distributed denial of service, or DDoS, attack using a botnet, which involves multiple computers flooding the financial institution's server with traffic in an effort to deny legitimate users access to the site." The FBI went on to say some of the funds stolen from bank accounts go towards the purchase of precious stones and expensive watches from high-end jewelry stores. Source:

[http://www.pcworld.com/article/247450/fbi\\_warns\\_of\\_malware\\_phishing\\_scam.html](http://www.pcworld.com/article/247450/fbi_warns_of_malware_phishing_scam.html)

### **CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR**

**New study ranks countries on security of materials that fuel nuclear arms.** A survey by the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a private advocacy group in Washington D.C., and the Economist Intelligence Unit, a company in London that does risk analyses, ranked nuclear materials security across the world, the New York Times reported January 11. The study looked at 18 factors, including known quantities of nuclear materials, physical protections, accounting methods, and transportation security as well as larger societal factors such as political stability and corruption. Australia took first place in nuclear security, while the United States tied with Belgium as having the 13th most secure materials. North Korea came in last, with Pakistan second to last. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/12/science/study-ranks-countries-on-nuclear-security.html>

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**EPA: power plants main global warming culprits.** The most detailed data yet on emissions of heat-trapping gases show U.S. power plants are responsible for the bulk of the pollution blamed for global warming. According to information released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) January 11, power plants released 72 percent of greenhouse gases reported to the EPA for 2010. The data includes more than 6,700 of the largest industrial sources of greenhouse gases, or about 80 percent of total U.S. emissions. The U.S. President's administration plans to regulate emissions of heat-trapping gases under existing law. A proposed rule to address pollution from new power plants could be released as early as this month. Eventually, the EPA will have to tackle facilities already in operation. The largest emitters will be the first in line. The largest greenhouse gas polluter in the nation in 2010, according to the EPA's data, was the Schererpower plant in Juliette, Georgia, owned by Southern Company. That coal-fired power plant reported releasing nearly 23 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, the chief greenhouse gas, in 2010. Source:

<http://www.manufacturing.net/news/2012/01/epa-power-plants-main-global-warming-culprits>

## **COMMERCIAL FACILITIES**

**(New Jersey) FBI probes firebombing of New Jersey synagogue.** Several Molotov cocktails and other incendiary devices were thrown at a New Jersey synagogue January 11, igniting a fire in the second-floor bedroom of the rabbi's residence in an attack that is being treated as a bias crime and attempted murder, police said. The attack on Congregation Beth El in Rutherford was the fourth bias incident within a month against a Jewish religious institution or center in northern New Jersey, police said. Within the last 3 weeks, a fire was intentionally set at a synagogue in Paramus and anti-Semitic graffiti was discovered at synagogues in Hackensack and Maywood. A Bergen County prosecutor said there was no evidence yet linking the four incidents, but they had not ruled out that they might be connected. In addition to being classified as a bias crime, the latest intentionally set fire was possibly the work of more than one person. "The manner in which this heinous crime has been committed has brought our office to really raise consciousness on this," the prosecutor said. "This is certainly a hate crime, this is certainly a bias crime, this is aggravated arson, but most importantly, we are now looking on this as an attempted homicide." A wide coalition of law enforcement agencies, including the Newark office of the FBI, is participating in the investigation. Source:

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/01/12/fbi-probes-firebombing-new-jersey-synagogue/?test=latestnews>

**(New Jersey) NJ synagogue firebombed; rabbi, family targeted.** A New Jersey synagogue was firebombed January 11, and investigators believe the rabbi and his family were the targets. It is the latest in a series of crimes targeting Jewish temples in Bergen County. The attack happened in Rutherford. The rabbi, his wife, and five children were sleeping in the residence portion of Temple Beth El. The incendiary device was tossed through a second-floor master bedroom window, igniting a fire that was quickly extinguished. The rabbi suffered minor burns on his hands putting out the fire. The incident launched a major investigation. Detectives canvassed

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the area, walking on the roof of the building. Several other explosive devices, including Molotov cocktails and aerosol cans, were discovered, but did not ignite. "You can't just look at this as an arson," a Bergen County prosecutor said. "You look at this now as an attempted murder." There have been several bias incidents in Bergen County recently, including one in Paramus and one in Hackensack. At this point, police have not said the firebombing is related. Source:

[http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/local/new\\_jersey&id=8498756](http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/local/new_jersey&id=8498756)

**(Michigan) 25 shots fired at Gaines Township church youth event; one injured.** One man was injured after he was shot in the back of the head after refusing entry to eight male suspects at a youth event in Gaines Township, Michigan, the Grand Rapids Press reported January 8. The suspects shot at least 25 rounds, the Kent County Sheriff's Department said. There were several different weapons involved, an official said. Source: [http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/01/25\\_shots\\_fired\\_at\\_gaines\\_towns.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/01/25_shots_fired_at_gaines_towns.html)

**Feds: Man planned terrorism attacks in Tampa.** Federal agents the weekend of January 7 arrested a Pinellas Park, Florida, man described as having extremist jihadist beliefs who wanted to blow up a target in Tampa and create "terror." The man was taken into custody after an FBI sting operation in which he tried to buy explosives, at least 10 grenades, Uzis, and an AK-47, authorities said. His intended target shifted over the course of the investigation, which spanned several months, at times involving government buildings, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office operations center in Ybor City, and a pub in South Tampa, authorities said. The arrest came about, in part, because of assistance from the Muslim community, said a U.S. attorney. The sting culminated at a Tampa hotel January 7 after the suspect had the person from whom he was purchasing the explosives — unknown to him, an undercover agent — film him making a video explaining his reasoning for the planned attack, according to the complaint. The suspect, who was born in the former Yugoslavia, came to authorities' attention in September 2011 when he contacted a store owner and asked for flags representing al-Qa'ida, according to a federal complaint. The suspect began working for the owner as a laborer. The store owner contacted the FBI, which initiated an undercover investigation. Source: <http://suncoastpinellas.tbo.com/content/2012/jan/09/091105/feds-man-planned-terrorism-attacks-in-tampa/news/>

## **COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR**

Nothing Significant to Report

## **CRITICAL MANUFACTURING**

**Big Lots recalls floor lamps due to shock hazard.** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Big Lots of Columbus, Ohio, announced a voluntary recall January 12 of about 43,700 five-light floor lamps. The wiring for the lamp's light sockets can become exposed, posing a risk of electric shock to consumers. In addition, use of the recommended standard 40 watt light bulbs can generate excessive heat, which can melt the double plastic shades over the bulbs. The firm has received four reports of melting lamp

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shades. No injuries have been reported. The lamps were sold at Big Lots stores nationwide from April 2010 through November 2011. Source:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml12/12086.html>

**Kaz USA recalls Honeywell portable electric heaters due to burn hazard.** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Kaz USA Inc., of Southborough, Massachusetts, announced a voluntary recall January 12 of about 19,000 Honeywell surround select portable electric heaters. The heaters were manufactured by Ningbo SMAL Electrics Co. Ltd., of China. The heater's internal housing, including the fan, heating element, and circuitry, can detach, posing a burn hazard to consumers. No incidents of injuries have been reported. The heaters were sold at Best Buy, Meijer, and Walmart stores nationwide from July through December. Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml12/12087.html>

**NHTSA recall notice - Ford Escape brake master cylinder reservoir cap.** Ford announced January 11 the recall of 244,530 model year 2001 and 2002 Escape vehicles manufactured from October 22, 1999 through July 19, 2002 equipped with a brake master cylinder reservoir cap that could leak brake fluid. If brake fluid leaks from the cap, it could come in contact with the antilock brake system (ABS) module wiring harness connector. Corrosion can develop in the electrical connector leading to melting, smoke, or a fire. Dealers will replace the brake master cylinder reservoir cap and the ABS electrical system will be modified. Ford expects to notify owners starting the week of January 23. Due to a parts delay, however, the remedy may not be available at that time. Source: [http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallresults.cfm?start=1&SearchType=QuickSearch&rcl\\_ID=12V005000&summary=true&prod\\_id=203264&PrintVersion=YES](http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallresults.cfm?start=1&SearchType=QuickSearch&rcl_ID=12V005000&summary=true&prod_id=203264&PrintVersion=YES)

## **DEFENSE/ INDUSTRY BASE SECTOR**

**Missouri River management plan released.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it is trying to improve the way it manages the Missouri River's reservoirs after 2011's historic flooding, but the 2012 plan released January 6 does not include much additional flood-storage space, the Associated Press reported. The Corps has been criticized for last year's flood that caused \$630 million damage to flood-control structures and covered hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland along the 2,341-mile-long river for months. Officials say the levees, dams, and channels along the river remain vulnerable going into 2012 because many more repairs are needed, but they are working to complete critical repairs before spring. The Corps said there is only a 10 percent chance the amount of water flowing into the Missouri River from melting snow and rainfall this year will exceed the amount the plan can handle. Source:

<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/01/06/3356513/missouri-river-management-plan.html>

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Radioactive tissue holders pulled from store shelves.** Metal tissue holders contaminated with low levels of radioactive material may have been distributed to Bed, Bath & Beyond stores in more than 20 states, federal regulators said January 12. A Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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(NRC) spokesman said the home products company pulled the tissue holder from its stores. He said there is little to no risk to human health — but it is better to avoid unnecessary exposure to radiation. “If someone has one of these, they could receive a small radiation dose from it,” he said. For example, he said someone keeping one of the boxes on a vanity in the bathroom and spending about 30 minutes a day near it for a year would receive the equivalent of a couple of chest x-rays. Bed, Bath & Beyond Inc. said its Dual Ridge Metal boutique tissue holder has been carried in about 200 of its stores since July 2011. The contamination was first discovered in California when two packages bound for Bed, Bath & Beyond stores in Santa Clara and San Jose containing four tissue holders triggered radiation alarms at truck scales, according to a January 6 report posted on the NRC Web site. The products were shipped from India through the port of Newark, New Jersey, the report said. Source:

<http://www.kmbc.com/money/30203929/detail.html>

**(Maryland) Losing the cops in a foot chase? There’s an app for that.** Law enforcement officials in Maryland issued a warning about the increasing use of smartphones and Web-based services to listen in on law enforcement radio transmissions. Gang members, officials warn, are using smart phone apps to get a jump on enforcement efforts and, in at least one case, to evade capture during a foot chase. The warning, from the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) is titled “Criminal Use of Police Scanner Apps.” It describes several recent “contacts with criminal gang members” within Maryland during which “law enforcement agency (personnel) has heard their radio transmissions broadcast over a suspect’s smart phone.” In one instance, “officers pursuing a suspect on foot overheard the suspect listening to the pursuing officers’ radio transmission over a smart phone” with a 3-second delay. Gang members and associates are using mobile applications and radio enthusiast Web sites to find and monitor secure channels used by law enforcement over the Internet. Source:

[https://threatpost.com/en\\_us/blogs/losing-cops-foot-chase-theres-app-010512](https://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/losing-cops-foot-chase-theres-app-010512)

## **ENERGY**

**(Ohio; Oklahoma) Ohio quakes directly tied to fracking.** Recent earthquakes in Ohio and Oklahoma have been directly linked to deep wells used to dispose of liquid wastes for hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” of natural gas, according to geological experts and they expect more earthquakes to come as the industry continues to expand across the eastern United States, Discovery News reported January 6. State officials shut down all drilling around a brine-injection well after a magnitude-4.0 quake rumbled through Youngstown, Ohio, December 31. That was the eleventh earthquake in 2011 in the region, which is not considered seismically active. Experts are also investigating a magnitude-5.6 earthquake east of Oklahoma City that has been linked to gas drilling. A team of investigators from Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory has been trying to figure out the connection between the earthquakes and the injection well, which takes waste fluids from nearby fracking operations, for the past few months. A seismologist on the team said the wells trigger quakes already poised to occur. At least 177 similar disposal wells are located throughout Ohio and a seismologist said it will take a while for the pressure from the fracking fluids to disperse into the earth. The earthquakes linked to drilling operations have been relatively minor. But experts said

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they do not have enough data yet to know whether the industrial drilling could spawn more destructive ones. Source:

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45903873/ns/technology\\_and\\_science-science/#.TwsD1la9uul](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45903873/ns/technology_and_science-science/#.TwsD1la9uul)

### **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**(California) Animal rights activists take credit for arson at beef ranch.** Animal rights activists took credit for setting fire to and destroying 14 cattle trucks at California's largest beef producing, feeding, and marketing ranch, FoxNews.com reported January 11. The North American Animal Liberation press office posted an anonymous letter on its Web site from activists claiming full responsibility for the arson. The vice president of risk management and human resources for Harris Farms is confident authorities will find the culprits. The statement on the Web site described in detail how they were able to carry out the arson. "[C]ontainers of accelerant were placed beneath a row of 14 trucks with [four] digital timers used to light [four] of the containers and kerosene-soaked rope carrying the fire to the other [10]." The vice president arrived at the scene 45 minutes after the fire had started January 8. By the time he arrived, the fire department had doused the flames and the equipment was destroyed. While the Animal Liberation Front is not claiming direct responsibility for the fire, the organization provides a platform on its Web site for animal rights activists. The vice president said some of the trucks that were destroyed from the fire had sleeper units where truck drivers can sleep during off time, but none was occupied at the time of the fire. The vice president said there will likely be a news conference the week of January 16 with further details. Source:

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/01/11/animal-rights-activists-take-credit-for-arson-at-beef-ranch/?test=latestnews>

### **GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)**

**Sykipot trojan hijacks Department of Defense authentication smart cards.** A variant of the Sykipot trojan horse hijacks U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) smart cards to access restricted resources, IDG News Service reported January 13. "We recently discovered a variant of Sykipot with some new, interesting features that allow it to effectively hijack DoD and Windows smart cards," said a security researcher at AlienVault. "This variant, which appears to have been compiled in March 2011, has been seen in dozens of attack samples from the past year." Smart cards interface with computers through a special reader. They use digital certificates and PIN codes for authentication. Sykipot is commonly used in advanced persistent threat attacks. According to the security researcher, the variant recently analyzed by AlienVault contains several commands to capture smart card data and use it to access secure resources. One of the variant's routines is designed to work with ActivIdentity ActivClient, an authentication-software product compliant with DOD's Common Access Card (CAC) specification. The CAC enables access to DOD computers, networks, and certain facilities. It allows users to encrypt and digitally sign e-mails, and it facilitates the use of public key infrastructure for authentication purposes. Source:

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[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9223423/Sykipot Trojan hijacks DoD smart cards?taxonomyId=17](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9223423/Sykipot_Trojan_hijacks_DoD_smart_cards?taxonomyId=17)

**U.S. authorities probe U.S.-China commission e-mail hack.** U.S. authorities are investigating allegations an Indian government spy unit hacked into e-mails of an official U.S. commission that monitors economic and security relations between the United States and China, including cyber-security issues, Reuters reported January 10. The request for an investigation came after hackers posted on the Internet what purports to be an Indian military intelligence document on cyber-spying, which discusses plans to target the commission — apparently using technical know-how provided by Western mobile phone manufacturers. Appended to the document are transcripts of what are said to be e-mail exchanges among commission members. "We are aware of these reports and have contacted relevant authorities to investigate the matter. We are unable to make further comments at this time," said a spokesman for the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. The document's authenticity could not be independently verified. However, the U.S.-China commission is not denying the authenticity of the e-mails. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/10/us-usa-india-hacking-idUSTRE80828N20120110>

**(North Carolina) Bomb threat forces evacuation of Harnett Co. Courthouse.** Employees at the Harnett County Courthouse in Lillington, North Carolina were allowed to go back into the building more than 2 hours after they were evacuated January 10 following a bomb threat. About 125 people were evacuated after someone called 911 to report a bomb threat. After a thorough search of the building, authorities determined there were no suspicious items found and the courthouse was reopened. Source: <http://www2.nbc17.com/news/2012/jan/10/bomb-threat-forces-evacuation-harnett-co-courthous-ar-1799865/>

**Stratfor apparently targeted again by hackers.** Hackers appear to have struck Stratfor again. E-mails allegedly sent out January 6 by the global intelligence outfit to its government clients, contractors and other customers said the company "would like to hear from our loyal client base as to our handling of the recent intrusion by those deranged, sexually deviant criminal hacker terrorist masterminds." The e-mail had multiple links. The Austin, Texas-based company responded with a statement from the CEO acknowledging "false and misleading communications that have circulated within recent days." In December 2011, hackers representing themselves as members of the activist group Anonymous claimed to have dumped online a wealth of personal information, including passwords and credit card numbers, about the nearly 1 million people registered on Stratfor's Web site. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/06/us/stratfor-website/index.html>

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Internet set for 'most significant' domain expansion in history.** The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) will begin accepting applications for new generic Top Level Domain names January 13. The ICANN, the nonprofit corporation that oversees the Internet's Domain Name System, is moving ahead with the expansion despite concerns it poses

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a threat to organizations that could be forced to spend large amounts to defensively register domain names to protect trademarks and other intellectual property. Some legislators and other U.S. officials have called for a delay in the program to address these concerns. Source: <http://gcn.com/articles/2012/01/11/icann-ready-top-level-domain-expansion-gtlds.aspx>

**Phishing emails from spoofed US-CERT addresses.** The U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) has issued a public warning about a phishing e-mail campaign using spoofed US-CERT e-mail addresses. "The subject of the phishing email is: 'Phishing incident report call number: PH000000XXXXXX' containing an attachment titled 'US-CERT Operation Center Report XXXXXXXX.zip', with the 'X' possibly indicting a random value or string," US-CERT explained on its site. "The zip attachment contains an executable file with the name 'US-CERT Operation CENTER Reports.eml.exe'. Reports indicate that SOC@US-CERT(dot)GOV is the primary email address being spoofed but other invalid email addresses are being used." According to the organization, the e-mail was sent to employees of many private sector organizations and of federal, state, and local governments during the last few days. The attached executable is a yet unspecified type of malware. US-CERT advises users not to download and run the attachment or even open the e-mail in question, but to delete it. Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1958](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1958)

**(Maryland) Losing the cops in a foot chase? There's an app for that.** Law enforcement officials in Maryland issued a warning about the increasing use of smartphones and Web-based services to listen in on law enforcement radio transmissions. Gang members, officials warn, are using smart phone apps to get a jump on enforcement efforts and, in at least one case, to evade capture during a foot chase. The warning, from the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) is titled "Criminal Use of Police Scanner Apps." It describes several recent "contacts with criminal gang members" within Maryland during which "law enforcement agency (personnel) has heard their radio transmissions broadcast over a suspect's smart phone." In one instance, "officers pursuing a suspect on foot overheard the suspect listening to the pursuing officers' radio transmission over a smart phone" with a 3-second delay. Gang members and associates are using mobile applications and radio enthusiast Web sites to find and monitor secure channels used by law enforcement over the Internet. Source: [https://threatpost.com/en\\_us/blogs/losing-cops-foot-chase-theres-app-010512](https://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/losing-cops-foot-chase-theres-app-010512)

## **NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS**

**(Pennsylvania) Three charged in historic Pa. church fire.** Three people were charged the weekend of January 7 with arson-related offenses in the October 2011 torching of a historic Delaware County camp-meeting church and two cottages used for summer retreats. The three will be arraigned January 25 in district court in Aston, Pennsylvania. One man is charged with arson and other offenses; the other man is charged with tampering with evidence and criminal and defiant trespassing. Police charged a woman with criminal and defiant trespassing. The church's value is estimated at \$1.5 million. The camp meeting, a 31-acre site nestled in a wooded area, was unoccupied when the structures were set on fire. The camp meeting has about 40 members, but its services are open to the public. The Web site said the nine-alarm fire

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started in the church and then spread to three adjacent cottages, gutting two. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Source:

<http://www.officer.com/news/10611102/three-charged-in-historic-pa-church-fire>

### **POSTAL AND SHIPPING**

**(Missouri) Sheriff: Letter carrier stole mail, burglarized homes.** A Kearney, Missouri mail carrier allegedly orchestrated 11 home burglaries and stole mail along her rural route, according to the Clay County Sheriff's Office. Three people, including the mail carrier, all of Excelsior Springs, were charged with the October burglary of the home of a 92-year-old decorated World War II veteran. His home, as well as the other burglarized homes, is near Watkins Mill State Park. The three individuals pleaded not guilty to the charges December 28. The sheriff's department believes the trio was responsible for another 10 burglaries in the area in a 2-month span, the sheriff said. The U.S. Postal Service's (USPS) Office of Inspector General is investigating the mail carrier for theft as well. A USPS spokesman said the mail carrier was placed on unpaid administrative leave. He said sheriff's deputies were able to recover a significant amount of the stolen property. Source: <http://www.kccommunitynews.com/kearney-courier/30132030/detail.html>

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

**12 infected with new swine flu strain.** At least 12 people are believed to have been infected with a new strain of swine flu that is not covered by this season's vaccine, U.S. News and World Report reported January 11. The new swine flu strain, H3N2v, has shown at least some potential for human-to-human transmission in those 12 individuals, which makes it especially dangerous. The 12 people with the new swine flu strain live in Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Officials for the Centers for Disease Control said the sample size of H3N2 infections is too small to know whether it will pose a threat to the population at large. H3N2v or another new flu strain could disrupt what CDC officials expected to be a relatively quiet flu season. While it is too early to tell if the new H3N2 strain (or another unexpected strain) will develop into a larger threat, the CDC admits the current vaccine will do little to help stop the virus. Source: <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2012/01/11/12-infected-with-new-swine-flu-strain>

**(Wisconsin) Legionnaires' spread linked to fountain.** A "water wall" decorative fountain located in a Wisconsin hospital's main lobby caused an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, researchers say. An epidemiologist with the Wisconsin division of public health said the outbreak of Legionnaires' disease was detected among eight people in southeast Wisconsin. The study, scheduled to be published in the February issue of Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology, found all patients had spent time in the main lobby where the fountain was located. The decorative fountain had undergone routine cleaning and maintenance prior to the investigation, but hospital officials quickly shut down the fountain after the outbreak and investigation, the study said. Source:

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[http://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2012/01/09/Legionnaires-spread-linked-to-fountain/UPI-93111326156477/?spt=hs&or=hn](http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2012/01/09/Legionnaires-spread-linked-to-fountain/UPI-93111326156477/?spt=hs&or=hn)

**Drug shortage risk for Endo Pharmaceuticals after factory shut down.** Endo Pharmaceuticals faces a drug shortage risk for some of its opiates as Novartis Consumer Group sorts out a mix-up that could cause extended release opiates for Endo Pharmaceuticals to be bottled together with over-the-counter pain reliever Excedrin and stimulant NoDoz. The factory shutdown, though temporary, could cause a shortage for Endo's painkiller drugs such as Endocet and Zydone, as well as Percocet. The chief operating officer of Endo Pharmaceuticals said the company was working with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to minimize disruption for patients using these drug treatments. As a result of the Novartis facility shutdown, Endo will be expediting the production of products at alternative manufacturing facilities in Huntsville, Alabama. Source: <http://www.medicitynews.com/2012/01/drug-shortage-risk-for-endo-pharmaceuticals-after-factory-shut-down/?edition=pharmaceuticals>

**Novartis recalls bottles of Excedrin, NoDoz, Bufferin and Gas-X.** Novartis is recalling some bottles of Excedrin, NoDoz, Bufferin, and Gas-X January 8, over concerns the bottles could contain stray pills from other medicines, or chipped or broken tablets. The news follows Novartis' recent decision to temporarily suspend production at its Lincoln, Nebraska plant for "maintenance and other improvement activities." The Swiss drug maker said it implemented the recall, which affects U.S. retailers voluntarily, and is working with the Food and Drug Administration. It became aware of the potential problem during an internal review that identified broken and chipped pills, and inconsistent bottle packaging that could cause pills to be mixed up. Novartis said some of the bottles of headache medicine Excedrin and caffeine caplets NoDoz with expiration dates of December 20, 2014, or earlier will be subject to the recall. Some of the packages of pain medicine Bufferin and stomach medicine Gas-X with expiration dates of December 20, 2013, or earlier will also be affected. Source: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/09/novartis-recalls\\_n\\_1193158.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/09/novartis-recalls_n_1193158.html)

**Medicare study shows most medical errors go unreported.** A new study released the first week in January 2012 by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), found hospital employees are only reporting 14 percent of all medical errors and usually do not change their practices to prevent future harm to patients. Federal regulations require hospitals to track all medical errors and adverse events that harm patients and to implement preventive measures to protect patients. Only five of the 293 reported cases of medical errors reviewed by federal investigators led to changes in policies or practices by hospitals. The OIG report recommends the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provide hospitals with a standard list of medical errors that should be tracked and reported to the agency. A previous 2010 study by the OIG estimated that about 15,000 Medicare patients experienced medical errors in the hospital that contributed to their deaths each month. The OIG calculated that Medicare patients harmed during that month required an additional \$324 million in hospital care. The study estimated the annual cost for these events in hospital care alone at \$4.4 billion. Source:

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<http://www.infectioncontrolday.com/news/2012/01/medicare-study-shows-most-medical-errors-go-unreported.aspx>

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**(Utah) Copper wire again taken from Parrish Lane interchange lights.** Thieves recently stole more than 7,000 feet of copper wire from the Parrish Lane Interchange lighting system on the Legacy Parkway in Centerville, Utah. The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Region One spokesman said the theft probably occurred just a few days before the new year. The loss for the state totals more than \$17,000. He said the same interchange has been hit by thieves multiple times since the Parkway opened in 2008. On Interstate 15 and other state highways, the UDOT is beginning to replace old signs with a new type of sign that is much more reflective and will make active lighting unnecessary, reducing the need for copper wire. Source: <http://www.standard.net/stories/2012/01/06/copper-wire-again-taken-parrish-lane-interchange-lights>

**(Texas) Flash flooding plagues Houston after heavy storms.** A strong storm front with heavy rain raced through Houston, January 9, leaving behind so much water, it completely shut down Texas 288 at the South Loop. One tornado reportedly touched down near FM 1093 at FM 723, near the Grand Parkway and Mason Road earlier in the morning. Nickel-sized hail was reported at Highway 99 and Fry Road, and bigger hail was seen in Wharton County early in the day. More than a dozen freeway intersections were flooded. People in cars stalled in high water on roadways called 911 for rescue, said a Houston Fire Department assistant chief. Firefighters helped people get out of their cars and take them to safer areas. Flooded streets forced Metro to reroute some buses and the Metro Rail service in downtown was limited because of water on the tracks. Light rail service was limited to the downtown transit center and the Preston Station on Main Street. Several parking garages in the Texas Medical Center (TMC) in Houston were closed because of high water. and the loading docks and the valet parking at the neurosensory center of TMC's Methodist Hospital were closed. Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Flash-flooding-plagues-Houston-after-heavy-storms-2450155.php>

## **WATER AND DAMS**

Nothing Significant to Report

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## **NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS**

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center**: 866-885-8295(IN ND ONLY); Email: [ndslic@nd.gov](mailto:ndslic@nd.gov); Fax: 701-328-8175 **State Radio**: 800-472-2121; **Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI)**: 701-328-5500; **North Dakota Highway Patrol**: 701-328-2455; **US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst**: 701-297-7400; **Bismarck FBI**: 701-223-4875; **Fargo FBI**: 701-232-7241.

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact:

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